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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/562,130	12/23/2005	Gianfranco Bedetti	9526-73	5561
30448 7590 12/10/2009 AKERMAN SENTERFIT P.O. BOX 3188 WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33402-3188				
EXAMINER				
GRAVINI, STEPHEN MICHAEL				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3743				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/10/2009		ELECTRONIC		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ip@akerman.com

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/562,130

**Applicant(s)**

BEDETTI, GIANFRANCO

**Examiner**

Stephen M. Gravini

**Art Unit**

3743

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2009.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 December 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/GS-08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20090317  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinno (US 4,353,730) in view of Golant et al. (US 4,532,155). The claims are reasonably and broadly construed, in light of the accompanying specification, to be disclosed by Kinno as comprising the steps of:

removing the finished hot granules from said granulation fluid bed at column 3 line 35 through column 4 line 12; and

cooling down said granules in a cooling fluid bed, continuously formed and supported by a respective flow of fluidification air, wherein at least part of the fluidification air coming out from said cooling fluid bed of the finished granules is fed into the granulation fluid bed at column 6 line 41 through column 7 line 22. Kinno also discloses the claimed all of the fluidification air fed into the granulation bed comes from the cooling bed at column 3 line 45 and wherein substantially all of the fluidification air coming out from the cooling bed is used as fluidification air for said granulation bed at column 3 line 56. Kinno discloses the invention, as claimed, except for the step of feeding granule seeds of a predetermined substance at a controlled temperature into a fluid granulation bed, at the same time as a flow of an appropriate growth substance in liquid state. Golant, another apparatus and process for granulating and or drying particles, discloses that feature at column 2 lines 30-35, column 3 lines 25 and 34

wherein the beads of material meet the claimed granule seeds feeding, because beads are patentably indistinguishable from the claimed seeds. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice and obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Kinno with the teachings of Golant for the purpose of optimizing drying and maximizing efficiency.

Claims 4-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Futer (US 3,309,619) in view of Shirley, Jr. et al. (US 4,506,453) in view of Golant. The means for language recited in claim 6 is construed to invoke the sixth paragraph of 35 USC 112, because the means for recitation is used, modified by functional language, and not modified by sufficient structure, material, or acts for achieving the specified function. The claims are reasonably and broadly construed, in light of the accompanying specification, to be disclosed by Futer as comprising the steps of:

cooling finished hot granules in a respective cooling fluid bed, it uses one single flow of fluidification air to continuously form and support, in order, said cooling and granulation fluid beds, substantially arranged with respect to said single flow at column 4 lines 35-52. Futer also discloses the claimed cascade feature (figure 1), self-supporting structure substantially shaped like a container, defining a granulation space inside of it, in which a shelf is positioned, intended to support a granulation fluid bed, characterized in that it comprises, in said space, a further base plate, positioned below and in a predetermined distanced relationship from said shelf, said base plate being intended to support a respective cooling fluid bed of hot finished granules coming from said granulation bed, said cooling bed being in fluid communication with said

granulation bed through said shelf, provided perforated, grated or in any case permeable to gas flows, a downcomer, extending vertically in said space, suitable for the transfer of finished granules from said granulation fluid bed to said cooling fluid bed at said further base plate, means for feeding and distributing fluidification air in said space below said further base plate, to form and maintain said cooling bed and said granulation bed, which are arranged in series with respect to said flow (figure 4), wherein said downcomer comprises a vertical panel, supported in said space in a predetermined spaced relationship from a wall of said container structure, defining with it an interspace, said panel having a horizontal bottom side spaced from said further base plate, so as to define with it a passage, suitable for putting said interspace in communication with the space above the aforementioned base plate (figure 2), wherein said interspace is in communication at the top with said space, through an opening provided in it (figure 4) wherein said cooling fluid bed is in communication with the outside through a pocket comprised between a wall of said container structure and a front panel fixed to the base plate supporting the cooling bed (figure 5). Futer discloses the claimed invention, except for the series fluid bed arrangement. Shirley another fluid bed granulation process, discloses that feature at column 5 lines 16-41 and shown in figure 5. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Futer with the series arrangement of Shirley for the purpose of optimizing fluid flow in a granulation process. Furthermore Futer in view of Shirley discloses the claimed invention, except for the claimed invention except for the claimed front panel comprises a mobile bulkhead, adjustable in height and front parallel panel to top wall. It would

have been an obvious matter of design choice to recite those features, since the teachings of Futer in view of Shirley would perform the invention as claimed regardless of the adjustable height or parallel relationship. Finally Futer in view of Shirley discloses the invention, as claimed, except for the step of feeding seeds. Golant, another apparatus and process for granulating and or drying particles, discloses that feature at column 2 lines 30-35, column 3 lines 25 and 34 wherein the beads of material meet the claimed granule seeds feeding, because beads are patentably indistinguishable from the claimed seeds. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice and obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Futer in view of Shirley with the teachings of Golant for the purpose of optimizing drying and maximizing efficiency.

### ***Double Patenting***

Claims 1-11 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 of copending Application No. 10/599,751 in view of Golant. Golant, another apparatus and process for granulating and or drying particles, discloses that feature at column 2 lines 30-35, column 3 lines 25 and 34 wherein the beads of material meet the claimed granule seeds feeding, because beads are patentably indistinguishable from the claimed seeds. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice and obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Futer in view of Shirley with the teachings of Golant for the purpose of optimizing drying and maximizing efficiency.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed September 30, 2009 have been fully considered but are moot on the new grounds of rejection.

***Conclusion***

Other prior art references cited in this action disclose one or more features of the claimed invention, but are not relied upon in rejecting the claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Gravini whose telephone number is 571 272 4875. The examiner can normally be reached on normal weekday business hours (east coast time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kenneth B. Rinehart can be reached on 571 272 4881. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Stephen Gravini/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3743